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88-26

OTTAWA -- Minister of State for Youth Jean J. Charest today announced funding of \$540,000 to 26 voluntary organizations under Employment and Immigration Canada's 1988-89 Literacy Corps Program.

This program, especially intended for young adults, is one of several initiatives undertaken by the federal government in the field of literacy.

A 1987 Southam survey revealed that nine per cent of Canadians cannot read or write, and 24 per cent read and write so poorly they cannot function properly in today's society.

"Lack of literacy skills can be an economically crippling disadvantage, especially for young people who have no experience or work skills to compensate," Mr. Charest said.



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He noted that 12.2 per cent of Canadians with less than grade nine education are unemployed, and the figure is almost double for those under 25. Most of the Literacy Corps' clients are under 25, and include Natives, single parents, ex-offenders and others who, for one reason or another did not graduate from high school.

Non-profit organizations receiving Literacy Corps grants enlist and train young volunteer tutors who use real-life materials and a one-on-one approach, tailoring their methods to each person they teach.

"Since it was established four years ago, the Literacy Corps has had great success in helping thousands of young Canadians enhance their self-esteem and improve their economic potential. These funds will enable the non-profit organizations and volunteer teachers delivering the program to the public to continue a valuable and much needed service," Mr. Charest said.

A list of the 26 organizations and their allocations is attached.

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Organizations to receive funding under Literacy Corps Program

- ° Lauchach Literacy of Canada, Saint John, N.B.
(\$70,112)
- ° Black Community Council of Quebec Inc., Montreal,
Que. (\$30,000)
- ° La Maison Alpha, Sherbrooke, Que. (\$23,250)
- ° Centre portugais de référence et promotion sociale,
Montreal, Que. (\$21,300)
- ° Atout-Lire, Quebec, Que. (\$22,000)
- ° Lettres en main, Montreal, Que. (\$3,900)
- ° Maison d'Haïti Inc., Montreal, Que. (\$16,882)
- ° L'Arbralette, Sherbrooke, Que. (\$5,400)
- ° Little Mountain Neighbourhood House, Vancouver, B.C.
(\$11,962)
- ° Project Literacy Kelowna Society, Kelowna, B.C.
(\$31,520)
- ° Native Education Centre, Vancouver, B.C. (\$34,265)
- ° Yukon Literacy Council, Whitehorse, Yukon (\$15,500)
- ° Medicine Hat College, Medicine Hat, Alta (\$13,640)
- ° Grande Prairie Regional College, Grande Prairie, Alta
(\$10,791)
- ° The Calgary John Howard Society, Calgary, Alta
(\$11,400)
- ° Winnipeg Volunteer Reading Aids, Winnipeg, Man.
(\$31,348)
- ° Frontier College, Winnipeg Literacy, Winnipeg, Man.
(\$14,500)
- ° Frontier College, Literacy for Youth, Toronto, Ont.
(\$14,500)
- ° Fort Frances Volunteer Bureau, Fort Frances, Ont.
(\$5,200)

- ° Peel Literacy Guild, Mississauga, Ont. (\$46,000)
- ° Thunder Bay Literacy Group, Thunder Bay, Ont.
(\$5,000)
- ° Kingston Literacy, Kingston, Ont. (\$30,000)
- ° Miramichi Literacy Council, Chatham, N.B. (\$10,000)
- ° Teachers on Wheels, St. John's, Nfld. (\$15,000)
- ° Mount Cashel-Independent Studies' Program,
St. John's, Nfld. (\$29,000)
- ° La Jarnigoine, Montreal, Que. ((\$17,330)